

# Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday April 23rd

This Sunday Diana is leading and Jerry is preaching from Psalm 123

“LOOK UP, DONT GIVE UP!”

## Jerry's Structure:

Psalm 123 tells us three ways to look to the Lord: Look to the LORD as OUR:

- (1) Sovereign KING v 1, (2) Dependable Master v 2 and
- (3) Merciful Saviour v 3-4

The online service will also be available from Sunday.

Go to [www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/](http://www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/)

Then click on “Join Our Online Service”

This Sunday Ron is at Gunton Baptist Church

## Jerry's Reads

Exodus 34:6-7, Ps. 145:15,16, Acts 7:54-60, Colossians 3:1-4,  
Hebrews 12:1-3

## For Your Prayers

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Lorraine Stuart**. During April please pray for the residents of **Recreation Road and Brumstead Road including Sydney House**.

Lord we thank you for Your blessings to SBC. The refurbishment of the Schoolroom is now a reality. We thank You for Your guidance of the project.

### Proverbs 16: 1-3 (MSG)

*Mortals make elaborate plans,*

*but GOD has the last word.*

*Humans are satisfied with whatever looks good;*

*GOD probes for what is good.*

*Put GOD in charge of your work,*

*then what you've planned will take place.*

Lord, You have also blessed us with new people joining our fellowship bringing their talents and expertise to SBC and joining as members, we are blessed indeed.

Lord, we pray that more people will join the fortnightly zoom prayer meeting. Help those considering joining in, to be at ease and not nervous, and realise they are welcome just to listen and just add the occasional amen.

Lord we pray for those Christians persecuted in this world, in the words of Richard Wurmbrand.

“I tremble because of the sufferings of those persecuted in different lands. I tremble thinking about the eternal destiny of their torturers. I tremble for Western Christians who don't help their persecuted brethren. In the depth of my heart, I would like to keep the beauty of my own vineyard and not be involved in such a huge fight. I would like so much to be somewhere in quietness and rest. But it is not possible! The quietness and rest for which I long would be an escape from reality and dangerous for my soul. The West sleeps and must be awakened to see the plight of the captive nations.”

## Virtual Prayer Room

**Friday 14th April Juliana posted** “Hello, I'm going to ask you to pray for me as I have a big exam tomorrow at Cambridge University, and it is very essential for my nursing qualification's adjustment.. feeling a bit nervous about it, for I previously had a bad experience with this exam. Thanks in advance.”

Also on Friday Maria posted “Please can I ask you to pray for Malcolm, our elderly neighbour from our previous house, he had a heart attack this morning and was taken to hospital where he is currently recovering. Thank you.”

**Thursday 20th April Diana posted** “As most of you will know I have been in remission with my Non Hodgkins Lymphoma (NHL) for 3 years and have been on active monitoring every 3 months. Everything was fine at my end January appointment then a few weeks ago I started have some symptoms. My appointment to see the consultant was brought forward a week and I saw him yesterday. My bloods also showing some changes so it was evident my NHL was starting to become active. I am going for bone marrow biopsy on 2nd May and will be sent for CT scan. Will see consultant in about 5 weeks to discuss treatment, which is probably the antibody treatment I had last time, possibly



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Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno  
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Secretary: Diana Gordon  
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Ministry Team: The Whole Fellowship

## For your Diary

### Monday 24th April

10.30 to 11.30am in the Church  
Prayers for SBC and young people  
2 to 4pm Warm Spaces in the Stables  
7.00pm Deacons Meeting

### Tuesday 25th April

Coffee and Chat

9.30am -12 in the Stables

### Wednesday 26th April

Table Tennis

9.30am to 12 in the School Room  
10-12pm Warm Spaces in the Stables

### Thursday 27th April

10 to 12pm Warm Spaces in the Stables  
7.00pm Zoom Prayer Meeting

All Welcome to join in

Contact Diana for details

### Friday 28th April

10.15 to 11.30am

Prayer for Revival at Three Windows,  
Brumstead Road

1.15 to 3pm Foodbank in Stables

### Sunday 30th April

10.45 Sunday Service

Welcome: Maggie & Henry

Flowers: Magda Nicholls

### Saturday 6th May

8.30am Men's Breakfast in the Stables

## Food Bank & Personal Prayer

SBC is normally open Monday to Friday from 10.00am to 12 noon to receive donations for the food bank and for personal prayer. The **Food Bank** is open on Friday in the Stables, 1.15 to 3.00pm. If you need help, or know someone in difficulty, either contact the Citizens Advice Service 0344 411 1444, the Food Bank on 07826 376343, or contact Ron Skivington at [minister@stalhambaptist.org.uk](mailto:minister@stalhambaptist.org.uk)

## Community Fridge Open

Mondays 2.00 pm - 4.00pm Tuesday to Friday 10.00am to 12 noon

If you are reading this newsletter as a PDF or online you can click on the red highlighted links and you will be taken to the relevant websites.



combined with another drug. But not the chemo. Would appreciate prayers”

**To join the WhatsApp Virtual Prayer Room that gives support with the power of prayer text Jerry on 07733837687. You will need a smart phone.**

## **Bible Reading Blog** **Galatians 6: 1-10 (MSG)** **Nothing but the Cross**

6<sup>1-3</sup> Live creatively, friends. If someone falls into sin, forgivingly restore him, saving your critical comments for yourself. You might be needing forgiveness before the day's out. Stoop down and reach out to those who are oppressed. Share their burdens, and so complete Christ's law. If you think you are too good for that, you are badly deceived.

4-5 Make a careful exploration of who you are and the work you have been given, and then sink yourself into that. Don't be impressed with yourself. Don't compare yourself with others. Each of you must take responsibility for doing the creative best you can with your own life.

***As Christians how easy has it been sometimes to lack forgiveness and walk away judgementally from someone who has stumbled?***

Listen to Ron's short blog based on this verse click [Rons Blog](#). if you are reading this on a computer or phone. Or go to [www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/](http://www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/) and click on "Our Weekly Bible Commentary"

## **Men's Breakfast**

A big thank you to all those joining us on the Saturday April 1st, we all had another good morning of food, chatting and learning about caring for others in God's name. Writes Geoff Reynolds.

£166-35 was sent to further the work of MAF. I am just confirming the 3 dates up to our summer break. The dates are at different intervals to fit in with my commitments and so we don't have Messy Church on a Thursday and a breakfast 2 days later... that happened once and was too much for me!! The dates are May 6th, June 10<sup>th</sup> and July 15th.

On the May 6th Tim Manley will tell us a bit about himself and the profits will go to a Christian project establishing foster care in Brazil that Tim has a link with. I can forward by email a document with information about the project if you contact me.

I look forward to seeing you all again on Saturday 6th May.

## **AGM and Special Meeting April 16th**

**Deacon elections:** David Child, Diana Gordon and Henry Nicholson were all re-elected.

**New Members:** Hazel and Tim Manley were voted in as members as was Jean Bloomfield.

**The Special Meeting:** It was announced that we now have the monies in hand to begin the refurbishment and on Monday we appointed C W Harmer and Son Ltd to do the work which is planned to commence on the 15th May and last 24 weeks.

This is a cause for great thanksgiving to a faithful God. Please pray for those who will be working on our premises.

It means we need to do a lot of tidying up and clearing away over the next few weeks of everything, especially in

the vestry, church kitchen and shed areas. If you have items belonging to you in the church, can you please take them away or they may be sold or binned.

We intend having a work party on Saturday 29th April for willing volunteers. If you can help, please let Diana know.

## **Just a Reminder**

If you shop in Tesco's the slot for SBC's refurbishment is open on the Tesco's Community Grant collection point. SBC could be granted up to £1500 if we receive the largest amount of the blue tokens you can collect as you pay at the till area.

## **Big Thank You from Stewart**

£175 has been sent to BMS for the Turkey/Syria Winter Appeal. Thank you all for your generous donations.

## **EBA Weekly Prayer Focus: 23rd April** **Cliff Park Community Church**

Cliff Park Community Church is a charismatic, welcoming and loving multicultural fellowship of believers, committed to sharing the good news of Jesus Christ and to helping those in need. It's an LEP, and services are a creative blend of some Anglican liturgy with the informality and freedom of a Baptist setting.

Based in the coastal town of Gorleston, close to the Norfolk/Suffolk border, the church meets in the local primary school, with both children's and young people's ministries taking place every Sunday. The church has around 70 members of mixed age and race, who are drawn from various backgrounds, with a large number of members working at the nearby James Paget University Hospital. CPCC is a resourcing church, over many years providing volunteers to other churches and local causes. In particular, they support the local Foodbanks, and volunteer at *The Bridge* – a lunch club for those in need, and local homeless charity *The Living Room*. They run regular outreach events such as a Christmas service in Gorleston Pavilion Theatre, and hold other events such as quizzes and fun days.

The church has just reached the end of a two-year pastoral vacancy, with the licensing of new minister Derek McClean which took place on 16<sup>th</sup> April. It's an exciting time as the church looks ahead to what this new season will bring.

### **Please pray for:**

- The licensing of Derek and his ministry.
- The entire McClean family as they settle into life in their new town.
- A return to the number of members pre-lockdown.
- Youth Alpha which is currently taking place.
- The new parish nursing ministry which has just begun.

## **North Norfolk Foodbank**

During April any of the following would be much appreciated:

**Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned Fruit, Long Life Milk – full fat or semi-skimmed, Tinned Meat, Rice Pudding, Biscuits, Pot Noodles/ Mugshots, Cuppa Soup, Squash, Toilet Rolls, Cleaning Sprays.**

Please note that we cannot accept any fresh food or items that contain alcohol.



**Fire Evacuation** In the event of a fire everyone should make their way to the fire assembly point which is outside Trett Phillips Residential in the High Street. For more information speak to Daniel.



## Jerry's Quotes of the Week

"We must use our eyes with resolution, for they will not go upward to the Lord of themselves, but they incline to look downward, or inward, or anywhere but to the Lord." **Charles Spurgeon, The Treasury of David.**

"If you look at the world, you'll be distressed. If you look within, you'll be depressed. If you look at God you'll be at rest." **Corrie Ten Boom.**

"Focus on giants - you stumble. Focus on God - Giants tumble." **Max Lucado.**

"Life is wasted if we do not grasp the glory of the cross, cherish it for the treasure that it is, and cleave to it as the highest price of every pleasure and the deepest comfort in every pain. What was once foolishness to us—a crucified God—must become our wisdom and our power and our only boast in this world." **John Piper, Don't Waste Your Life.**

Look for yourself, and you will find in the long run only hatred, loneliness, despair, rage, ruin, and decay. But look for Christ, and you will find Him, and with Him, everything else thrown in." **C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity.**

We must cease striving and trust God to provide what He thinks is best and in whatever time He chooses to make it available. But this kind of trusting doesn't come naturally. It's a spiritual crisis of the will in which we must choose to exercise faith." **Swindoll Charles R.**

NEW News 19 April 2023

## Open Doors

### Sudan crisis Q&A:

## "We need to pray because the future is not bright"

The fighting that has broken out in Sudan could have severe implications for Christians not only in the country, but elsewhere across the region. That's according to Fikuri\*, an Open Doors research expert for East Africa. In this interview, he explains what's behind the unrest, what it means for Christians and how you can pray...

*Your prayers are desperately needed for our brothers*



*and sisters in Sudan*

**Timeline of events**

**April 2019** President Omar al-Bashir toppled, leading to power-sharing government between military and civilians

**July 2020** Apostasy law abolished

**September 2020** Transitional government separates religion from state, ending 30 years of Islamic rule

**October 2021** Military seizes complete control of country

In recent days, fighting has erupted in the capital Khartoum and elsewhere across the country. What has prompted this?

It's sad that our country, Sudan, is once again in more like a civil war. It's a rivalry between the two armed forces – the National Army and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). The RSF is part of the security formed by former President Omar al-Bashir. It's a remnant of the so-called Janjaweed militia (a paramilitary group) which fought in Darfur and is accused of genocide.

The leaders of the two groups – acting President Abdel Fattah al-Burhan for the army and General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo for the RSF – were united in the October 2021 military coup, but now they have different opinions on what the formation of civilian government looks like. This has ended up in fighting, with both saying that the other party should surrender.

**What impact is this having on civilians?**

According to reports, around 200 people have lost their lives. Most of them are civilians. Normal life is disrupted. People do not have electricity, especially in the bigger cities like Khartoum, Omdurman and Port Sudan.

People are also dying from a lack of medical support, because it is almost impossible to leave home for treatment. Those who have underlying medical issues are not able to go to hospital. Sources told us of people they know personally who have lost their lives because of this. Emotionally and physically, people are suffering.

**What change, if any, has there been since April 2019 when President Omar al-Bashir was toppled?**

The Sudanese people had hope for change when President Omar al-Bashir was overthrown. But to our surprise, the situation has never improved, both in terms of political and religious freedom, as well as in response to the economic problems. People in Sudan protested four years ago because they didn't have bread. Now the same truth applies and people are more worried.

[Why has Sudan entered the top 10 of the World Watch List?](#)

**What hope is there of a solution to the conflict?**

As a Christian, I would love to hope that God has His



own way, to stop things and then change the situation for the good of His people. But if I think of the context, it's really discouraging. Unless the military are told to go back to their barracks and leave the administration of civilian government, the situation in Sudan will not improve soon. It's my prayer that the international community, especially countries that have a strong influence on the country, will intervene if this situation is allowed to continue.

### **What impact is this unrest having on Christians?**

One of our sources told us that his uncle has lost his life in the crossfire. Once you leave your house, you're not sure whether you can come back alive. It is difficult because people need to leave home to survive (e.g. earn money, get food).

And our fear is that, if the current crisis enables Islamists to influence the political life and the situation in Sudan, believers are heading under another dictatorship which will be against Christian life in the country.

**"Knowing that you are by our side is always an encouragement to us"**

There was some hope that the transitional government would change things, but now we are stuck. And this war offers another opportunity for Islamists to take over and say, "You see, democracy is not working. Now, let's go back to our rules, which is Islam and Sharia (Islamic law)." And if they are able to do that, the life of Christians will be worse than in the days of Omar al-Bashir.

### **There were positive steps towards religious freedom following the overthrow of President Omar al-Bashir in 2019. To what extent are these now under threat?**

Even though progress was made in the early days of the transition, if you see the actual daily life of believers in the country, not much changed. In 2019, Christians were among those calling for reform and they were told to be patient, that things will change over time. They were willing to be patient, but since then nothing has materialised.

Christians are fearing that Islamists may exploit this crisis, and then once in power, they can bring back all those laws and even do whatever they want. We really need to pray for Christians because the future is not bright.

### **How can we pray?**

The longer the conflict goes on, the more it will have really a damaging effect on the daily life of Christians. If they don't have opportunity to work, they will begin to starve. Let's pray for the Lord to give wisdom to the political and military commanders of Sudan, that they come to their senses and stop this war.

Please pray for the safety of Christians who are

endangered by this situation, because the war is taking place inside the cities. It will have an impact on the life of Christians.

And please pray that the crisis will not lead to a situation that empowers or enables Islamists to take back their agenda. Sudan is a big country and most of its neighbours are fragile with their own struggles. If the situation in Sudan deteriorated badly, it will have implications for Christians around the region as well. Let's pray for Christians and for the future of the church in Sudan and in East Africa.

### **Amidst this hugely challenging time, where can you see good news?**

When you meet Sudanese people, and especially Christians, there's a lot of encouragement. The country has been through a difficult time for decades. But Christians in the country are committed to continue serving and reaching unreached people in the country and take the good news to their Muslim neighbours.

I recently met one convert who was thrown out by her family. Everybody was expecting that she will denounce her faith and go back to her old religion. But she said, "Despite all these challenges, I'll stick to my faith and continue to love and serve Jesus."

This kind of determination and strong faith in the Lord is a source of much encouragement.

### **Is there anything else you'd like to say to your brothers and sisters supporting you in prayer?**

This is a difficult time for Sudan and let's lift it up in our prayers, that the Lord will intervene and motivate those who can contribute solutions to the crisis. Knowing that you are by our side is always an encouragement to us, so thank you so much.

*\*Name changed for security reasons*

### **PLEASE PRAY**

A prayer for Sudan

Father God, we lift up Sudan and pray for stability in the region.

May those who covet power and those who seek to fight choose to walk the path of peace.

Bring justice and healing to this divided land, we pray.

Out of this darkness, we pray that light will come.

We pray for a government that respects equality and religious freedom.

May Your church in this land reflect Your humility, forgiveness and love,

And so act as a signpost to the possibility of a different way of life.

Bring hope for those who feel helpless,

Healing for those who have been wounded,

And safety for all those who feel afraid. Amen.

Source OpenDoor for more info Click [here](#)

